

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-05 COME-00 NSF-02

DODE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA:LBROWN:CSA

APPROVED BY OES/OFA:HENDERSON.

ARA/CAR-MR. PALAZZOLO (SUB)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCLR, TBIO, BF

SUBJECT: NMFS BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING STUDIES ACROSS  
STRAITS OF FLORIDA

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM NMFS TO OBTAIN CLEAR-  
ANCE FROM GCOB FOR TWO NMFS RESEARCH VESSELS, THE GEORGE  
M. BOWER (GMB) AND THE VIRGINIA KEY (VK), TO CONDUCT SUB-  
JECT STUDY, WHICH WILL EXTEND PARTIALLY INTO GCOB WATERS,  
DURING PERIODS MARCH 18-19 (GMB), 25-26 (GMB); APRIL 1-18  
(GMB), 22-23 (VK); MAY 20-JUNE 20 (GMB); JUNE 24-25 (VK);  
JULY 1-2 (VK) AND JULY 8-9 (VK). PURPOSE OF PLANNED  
CRUISES IS TO COLLECT DATA WHICH WILL DEFINE AREA AND  
PERIOD OF ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING. THIS INFO ESSEN-  
TIAL TO DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR  
BLUEFIN TUNA. EXPANDED SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RESEARCH  
FOLLOWS BY ROUTINE TELEGRAM AND COMPLETE INFO, AS RECEIVED  
FROM NMFS, BEING POUCHE TODAY. IT IS REQUESTED YOU SEEK  
GCOB CLEARANCE FOR THOSE PORTIONS OF THIS RESEARCH FOR  
WHICH ADEQUATE LEAD TIME EXISTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GCOB  
REQIREMENTS.

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2. DEPT HAS INFORMED NMFS THAT EXTREMELY SHORT LEAD TIME

MAKES IT UNLIKELY GCOB WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO REQUEST

FOR CLEARANCE FOR FIRST PORTIONS OF ABOVE RESEARCH.

NMFS HAS RESPONDED (1) PRIMARY REASON FOR LATENESS OF

WAS THAT BOWERS BECAME AVAILABLE FOR THESE STUDIES VERY UNEXPECTED AND (2) RESEARCH PLANNED SHOULD BE OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST TO GCOB AND (3) SINCE SPAWNING SEASON FOR TUNA NOT WELL-DEFINED, IT IS IMPORTANT THIS PLANNED RESEARCH BE INITIATED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF SPAWNING SEASON, I.E., ASAP. NMFS HAS ASKED WE PROCEED WITH CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR EARLY RESEARCH ON THE BASIS OF THESE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. NMFS HAS RECOMMENDED DEPT CONTACT MR. C.E.M. SMITH, DIRECTOR, GCOB MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, T TO ENLIST HIS SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT.

4. WE SUGGEST YOU CONTACT SMITH TO DETERMINE IF HIS OFFICE IS INTERESTED IN THIS RESEARCH AND TO OBTAIN HIS VIEWS ON LIKELIHOOD OF GCOB GRANTING CLEARANCE FOR EARLY PORTIONS OF RESEARCH. IF IN YOUR JUDGMENT IT THEN APPEARS THAT REASONABLE CHANCE EXISTS FOR GCOB TO APPROVE ANY OF THE EARLY PORTIONS OF RESEARCH, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SEEK GCOB APPROVAL FOR THIS EARLY WORK AS WELL. IF NOT, THEN PLEASE INFORM DEPT AND WE WILL SO ADVISE NMFS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISH, TUNA, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, STUDIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE053488  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LBROWN:CSA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750083-1092  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750365/aaaacgpp.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN OFA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NMFS BLUEFIN TUNA SPAWNING STUDIES ACROSS STRAITS OF FLORIDA  
**TAGS:** OCLR, TBIO, BF, US  
**To:** NASSAU  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006